

Message Text

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13

ORIGIN AF-18

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 AID-20 EB-11 AGR-20 TRSE-00 COME-00

RSC-01 OMB-01 /072 R

DRAFTED BY AF/N:RFSMITH:LOF

8/24/73 EXT. 20624

APPROVED BY AF:CGROSS

AFR/NARA:EWENDT (INFO)

EB/OFPPD:RSIMPSON (INFO)

AID/FFP:JDURNAN (INFO)

EMS/USDA:GTUSSEY (INFO)

AF/N:GLANE

----- 052589

R 242237Z AUG 73

FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 169444

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: EAID, EAGR, SU

SUBJECT: CCC CREDIT

REFERENCE: (A) KHARTOUM 1817; (B) KHARTOUM 1183;

(C) KHARTOUM 1604

1. AMBASSADOR HAMZA REQUESTED APPOINTMENT WITH ACTING ASSISTANT SECRETARY ROSS, PRIMARILY FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION GOS REQUEST FOR CCC CREDIT TO PURCHASE UP TO 160,000 TONS WHEAT. AMB. ROSS AND DEPTOFF ATTEMPTED CLEAR UP HAMZA'S APPARENT MISUNDERSTANDING (REFTEL A) THAT CCC CREDIT REFUSED AND CURRENT LINE OF CREDIT CANCELLED. THEY INFORMED HAMZA THAT REMAINDER OF CURRENT LINE IN EXCESS OF \$3 MILLION STILL AVAILABLE FOR WHEAT PURCHASES. IN RESPONSE TO AMBASSADOR HAMZA'S QUERY ABOUT POSSIBLE FUTURE CCC CREDITS, ACTING ASST SEC ROSS SAID NO ONE COULD PROMISE FAVORABLE ACTION AT THIS TIME PENDING FURTHER INFORMATION ON CROP AVAILABILITIES AND AGRICULTURE DEPT DECISION ON CCC PROGRAM.

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HE ASSURED THE AMBASSADOR THAT DEPT WOULD DO EVERYTHING

IT COULD TO ENSURE THAT GOS REQUEST RECEIVED BEST POSSIBLE CONSIDERATION.

2. HAMZA WAS CONCERNED ON ONE HAND TO MAKE CERTAIN THAT DEPARTMENT UNDERSTOOD CLEARLY VITAL POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF WHEAT SUPPLY TO GOS AND ON OTHER HAND THAT GOS RECEIVED ACCURATE ASSESSMENT POSSIBILITY ITS REQUEST WOULD RECEIVE FAVORABLE ACTION. AFTER BEING INFORMED GENERAL SUBSTANCE EMBASSY'S REPORTS (REFTELS B AND C) ON POLITICAL ASPECTS OF REQUEST AND PRESIDENT NIMEIRI'S PERSONAL INTEREST THEREIN, AMBASSADOR HAMZA EXPRESSED DESIRE OBTAIN FROM GOS AND PROVIDE FURTHER SPECIFICS ON POLITICAL IMPACT IN HOPE THIS WOULD GIVE HIGHER PRIORITY TO GOS REQUEST. WHILE ASSURING HAMZA THAT DEPT APPRECIATED POLITICAL IMPORTANCE OF REQUEST AND WOULD MAKE CERTAIN POLITICAL FACTOR CONSIDERED IN HANDLING IT, AMB. ROSS SAID THAT ANY ADDITIONAL SPECIFICS GOS WISHED PROVIDE WOULD ALSO BE TAKEN INTO ACCOUNT.

3. HAMZA EXPRESSED CONCERN LEST GOS OFFICIALS GET OVERLY BRIGHT PICTURE OF CCC CREDIT PROSPECTS. AMBASSADOR ROSS STRESSED THAT GOS REQUEST WOULD BE GIVEN THE CAREFUL CONSIDERATION IT DESERVES, BUT THAT DECISION WOULD DEPEND ON COMMODITY SUPPLY SITUATION.

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